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SINGLE ENERGY POLICY PRESSED
FOR SIX COMMUNITY COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 10 - Robert Marjolin, Vice President of the Commission of the European Community (Common Market) today came out strongly for a single coordinated energy policy for the six nations of the European Community. At the same time, he questioned the rapid rate of conversion from coal to other fossil fuels in the energy field. The substance of Mr. Marjolin's speech which was delivered before a meeting of the French Association of Petroleum Technicians in Paris this evening was released by Community Headquarters in Brussels.

The Common Market Vice President, while noting the price differential for petroleum products in the Community (the French price of fuel oil, for example, is appreciably higher), stated that this difference must be eliminated during the transition period of the Common Market. He said that the danger to be avoided is that new national measures which might be taken under certain circumstances would have the effect of continuing different policies on the part of the six countries. "Only a unified Community policy can be allowed to come into being", he said.

Looking at the long-term, Mr. Marjolin questioned the speed with which oil is being substituted for coal in certain countries and he suggested that

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perhaps a slowdown should be effected in order to maintain "the important production of coal in Europe. It is necessary to insure the maintenance of energy supplies within the six countries and every effort must be made to make coal competitive with other sources of energy," he said.

In regard to imports of Soviet oil, the Vice President said, "It may not be unreasonable to propose to the six countries at the proper moment some system of establishing a system on which increased imports could be allowed each year based on a percentage of the increase in national fuel consumption. In a case where one of the member countries feels that it is to its interest to increase these limits, it could be possible to take the matter up before representatives of other member countries and the full Community."

The flow of crude Saharan oil into other countries of the Community besides France should be effected without tariff. He pointed out that Community oil enjoys no particular preference inasmuch as crude imports are subject to no common external tariff. This situation can only be changed by unanimous decision of all six governments.

The conference which Mr. Marjolin addressed was presided over by Jean-Marcel Jeanneney, French Minister of Industry.